

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Examiner's objections, rejections and comments in the Office Action of March 21, 2005 and have prepared the following response.

Claims 2, 5-9, 11-12 and 15-20 remain pending in this application. Initially, Applicants express appreciation that the Examiner has indicated claims 5 and 15-17 are in condition for allowance and that claims 7-8 and 18-20 would be in condition for allowance if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of independent claim 2 and dependent claim 6. By this paper, Applicants have cancelled claims 2, 6 and 19-20, rewritten claim 7 in independent form, and rewritten claim 11 in dependent form to depend from newly independent claim 7.

Claims 9, 11 and 12 have been amended to depend from amended claim 7, which the Examiner has indicated would be condition for allowance if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the independent claim 2 and dependent claim 6.

With respect to the remaining dependent claims 8 and 18, without conceding the Examiner's position, Applicants contend these amended claims are allowable as a result of their dependency from amended claim 7.

Finally, by this Response, Applicants have rewritten claim 7 in independent form and hereby authorize the Examiner to charge our deposit account 03-1800. An appropriate Fee Transmittal sheet is attached to this Response.

From the foregoing, Applicants submit that the remaining claims in this patent application are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims and passage of the application to issue are courteously requested. If a telephone conference would

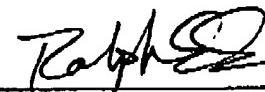
expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a conference with the undersigned is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

May 6, 2005

By:



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